

The Promoting Service through AmeriCorps (PSA) Act of 2024

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Background:

For the last 30 years, over 1.2 million Americans have served their communities through AmeriCorps programs, addressing a range of social service, educational, environmental, and public safety needs.

AmeriCorps engages more than 200,000 national service participants in results-driven service at more than 50,000 locations across the country each year. Working hand in hand with thousands of nonprofit organizations, these dedicated Americans recruit and manage millions of additional volunteers as they work to promote employment opportunities, deliver disaster relief, prepare a better-trained workforce, tutor and mentor at-risk youth, promote health, and provide essential services to some of our most vulnerable populations, including children and seniors, as well as veterans.

By transforming the lives of those who serve, the AmeriCorps programs are also a strategic investment in our country's future. AmeriCorps expands opportunity and enables participants, especially young Americans, to gain marketable job skills and pursue higher education, which increases their employability and earning potential. Engaging in a culture of service and volunteering early in their careers also often leads to former AmeriCorps members to stay involved in national, community, or public service within the nonprofit or government sectors, benefitting our nation for many years beyond their formal service term.

Bill Summary:

The Promoting Service through AmeriCorps Act reauthorizes the AmeriCorps programs authorized by The National and Community Service Act of 1990 and The Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973. Additionally, it modernizes the administration of AmeriCorps to strengthen and expand opportunities to serve, while improving AmeriCorps member experience to promote recruitment and retention. Specifically, the bill:

- Increases the flexibility of the Segal Education Award to expand workforce development opportunities through service and strengthen the pathway from AmeriCorps to post-secondary education.
- Standardizes administrative flexibilities, eligibility requirements, and benefits across AmeriCorps programs to better support members during and after their service terms.
- Creates more opportunities to serve by authorizing positions with shorter terms of service and codifying an expanded age eligibility range for NCCC.
- Establishes an Office of Alumni Engagement to strengthen recruitment and foster a common identity among current and former AmeriCorps members.
- Reauthorizes the national service laws for the period of 2025 to 2029.

Endorsements:

Voices for National Service, City Year, America's Service Commissions, States for Service Coalition, Service Year Alliance, With Honor Action, Third Way, Hunger Free America, The Corps Network, Public Allies, 9/11 Day, America Forward, Bay Area Community Resources, CoGenerate, College Possible, Colorado Youth Corps Association, Conservation Legacy, GO Foundation, iFoster, Improve Your Tomorrow, Jumpstart for Young Children, Lead For America, Massachusetts Service Alliance, Notre Dame Mission Volunteers, OneStar Foundation, Partners for Rural Impact, Points of Light, Reading Partners, Resolutionaries, SBP, Teach For America, The Child Abuse Prevention Center, YouthBuild USA, YMCA of the USA, Campus Compact, Habitat for Humanity International